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2-15-1508. Appointments to board of public education and board of regents -- conditions -- vacancy. (1) Appointments to the board of public education and to the board of regents are subject to the following qualifications:

- (a) Not more than four may be from one district provided for in 5-1-102.
- (b) Not more than four may be affiliated with the same political party.
- (c) The terms of members appointed to each board are 7 years except as provided in subsection (3).
- (d) When a vacancy occurs, the governor shall appoint a member for the remainder of the term of the incumbent, and the appointment must preserve the balance required by subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b).
- (e) A person may not be appointed to concurrent memberships on the board of public education and the board of regents.
- (2) An appointed member of either board shall take and subscribe to the constitutional oath of office and file it with the secretary of state before the person may serve as a member of either board.
- (3) (a) One seat of the appointed members on the board of regents is reserved for membership by a student appointed by the governor. The student must be registered as a full-time student at a unit of higher education under jurisdiction of the board of regents. The length of term of the student member is 1 year. The term begins July 1 and ends June 30. The student regent may be reappointed to succeeding terms subject to subsection (3)(b). The provisions of subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) do not apply to the student member and may not affect the balance of the remaining appointive membership on the board of regents.
- (b) The governor shall appoint the student provided for in subsection (3)(a) based upon a nomination provided by a student organization designated by the board of regents. The student organization shall nominate no fewer than three qualified students. If the governor finds that none of the students nominated are acceptable, the governor may request a new slate of nominees. Nominations must be forwarded to the governor in March immediately preceding the end of a regular term, and the governor shall make the appointment before the end of the succeeding June. In the event of a vacancy, a replacement must be appointed as soon as is practicable and in the same manner as the original appointment.

**History:** En. Secs. 2, 11, Ch. 344, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 75-5610(part), 75-5619; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 2007.

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- **5-1-102.** Composition of commission. (1) The majority and minority leaders of each house shall each designate one commissioner for the commission provided for in <u>5-1-101</u>. Two commissioners must be appointed from each district listed in subsection (2). The majority leader in the senate has first choice of the district from which the majority leader will select a commissioner, and the majority leader of the house has second choice. Within 20 days after their designation, the four commissioners shall select the fifth member, who shall serve as the presiding officer of the commission. If the four members fail to select the fifth member within the time prescribed, a majority of the supreme court shall select the fifth member.
  - (2) The commission districts are the following counties:
- (a) District 1: Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Powell, Granite, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Broadwater, Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, and Carbon;
- (b) District 2: Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Richland, McCone, Garfield, Petroleum, Fergus, Judith Basin, Cascade, Chouteau, Teton, Pondera, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Prairie, Dawson, Wibaux, Fallon, Carter, Powder River, Big Horn, and Yellowstone.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 21, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 43-109; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 52, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 254, L. 2003.

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- **2-15-108.** Gender and racial balance -- report to legislature. (1) As vacancies occur and appointments are made, all appointing authorities of all appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils of state government shall take positive action to attain gender balance and proportional representation of minorities resident in Montana to the greatest extent possible.
- (2) Pursuant to subsection (1), the secretary of state shall publish in the Montana Administrative Register on a monthly basis the recent appointments made by the executive branch and the upcoming vacancies on executive boards and commissions.
- (3) The governor shall report to the legislature, as provided in <u>5-11-210</u>, on the progress made toward achieving the goals set forth in this section.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 208, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 349, L. 1993.

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#### Constitution of Montana -- Article X -- EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LANDS

**Section 9. Boards of education.** (1) There is a state board of education composed of the board of regents of higher education and the board of public education. It is responsible for long-range planning, and for coordinating and evaluating policies and programs for the state's educational systems. It shall submit unified budget requests. A tie vote at any meeting may be broken by the governor, who is an ex officio member of each component board.

(2) (a) The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms, as provided by law. The governor and superintendent of public instruction are ex officio non-voting members of the board.

(c) The board shall appoint a commissioner of higher education and prescribe his term and duties.

(d) The funds and appropriations under the control of the board of regents are subject to the same audit provisions as are all other state funds.

(3) (a) There is a board of public education to exercise general supervision over the public school system and such other public educational institutions as may be assigned by law. Other duties of the board shall be provided by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms as provided by law. The governor, commissioner of higher education and state superintendent of public instruction shall be ex officio non-voting members of the board.